

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE
CITY AND COUNTY
OF
Montreal.

FRIENDS AND FELLOW SUBJECTS,

You are now about to exercise that first of privileges under the Constitution which we enjoy, namely to choose the persons who are to represent you in the Provincial Legislature.

According to the choice made, much good or great evil, may be the consequence.—Preparatory to your decision I beg to offer some observations upon what the constitution is, and upon other matters, that you may judge whether those who lately represented you, have conformed to, or abused the powers entrusted to them.

The beauty of the Constitution consists in this, that no branch of the Legislature possesses

the power of enacting any law.—All must concur therein to be valid.—The Assembly (fortunately for the Country) has not a whit more power or right over your purses, than the King's Representative, or the Legislative Council, excepting that a grant of money must commence with them, before the others can entertain, or concur in it—but they cannot raise or appropriate one shilling without such concurrence.

The demagogues, who governed the last and some of the preceding Assemblies, and among whom MR. PAPINEAU was the chief manager, have deluded their followers by persuading them that the object was to preserve the rights and privileges of the people, whereas the fact is, that those rights and privileges are not attacked, nor have any thing to do with the question. It has no reference to monies to be granted, and respects only those already granted, and appropriated by the whole legislature.—The aim is to nullify those appropriations, by depriving the King's Representative of the exercise of the Royal Prerogative—the Legislative Council of their rights under the constitutional act, and in defiance of that Act, to concentrate the whole legislative power in the hands of those demagogues, under the guise of superior regard for the rights of the people.

If they prevail in this, MR. PAPINEAU will then rule, with the advice of his satellites, either as Governor over the King's Representative, or as President under a revolution. Can any man of common sense believe that the people would benefit by the change? a despotism worse than Turkish would be the consequence of their elevation into the power aimed at, for no tyranny is so degrading, as that of equals or inferiors.

Has the PAPINEAU party shewn patriotism or disinterestedness in any shape? On the contrary, they are most selfish, and in no case have they manifested public spirit, unless a desire to engross power be that virtue.—Would you trust them with the uncontrolled management of your own purses, and shall they be entrusted with that of the public? Wherever they could apply public money to their own benefit, they have done it. Remember the grants for inland communication, and look at the application of a part of those monies to the improvement of the continuation of Bonsecour Street.—Look at any other improvement of streets in Town or Suburbs, where the *Clique* have influence or interest, and you will find verified by them the old adage, that charity begins at home.

It is disgraceful to such a city as Montreal, to

have so long submitted to the dictation of these upstarts, who among other demerits have created a religious division in the community of their countrymen, and that with a view to the PAPI-NEAU interest, which their Church testifies.—Their ambition is unbounded. They aim at the concentration of the civil power in their chief and his party, and the clerical power in the management of his relative Mr. LARRIQUE as a Bishop, who has no right to that office without the King's consent.—I am astonished that the Canadians do not feel alarm at such barefaced and arrogant attempts at usurpation and rule.

That faction and their hired and detestable press, have been labouring to excite discontent, and produce insurrection.—Their abuse of the King's Representative is disgraceful and cowardly, as they would not dare to attempt it, if not screened from personal chastisement by the dignity of the high character whom they abuse.

And who are these men that lay claim to patriotism? They shewed any thing but zeal in the defence of the Province, in the late war.—Mr. VIGER may probably recollect his interview with Sir GEORGE PREVOST, on a certain occasion.

We have a security against insurrection and revolution in the loyalty of the great body of the

inhabitants, and their actual state of happiness, and further, in the consideration, that none of the *Clique* have nerves to direct the storm that they wish to raise.

Canada has every thing to lose and nothing to gain by a revolution.—Would the elevation of Mr. PAPINEAU to a Presidency, compensate for the loss of British protection and expenditure?—The change would be felt so distressingly, that he would probably lose his life, as the cause of it.—Would Jonathan expend as much of his money here as John Bull does, or pay equal deference to Canadian prejudices?

The Clergy had better ponder well upon this, they are deeply interested, as their emoluments would be the first sacrificed, under the rule of our neighbours.—It is as clear as any proposition in Euclid, that the present state of things cannot be suffered to continue, and if the Assembly persists in arrogating to itself, powers incompatible with the present constitution, it must be changed; for the commercial capital of the country, and the great value of Canada to the United Kingdom as a Colony, if administered upon British principles, cannot be left at the mercy of a faction, who detest every thing British, and repay unprecedented indulgence, with base ingratitude.

It is galling to see a British man of good private character harnessed to the car of the *Clique*, and labouring as the tool of those that vent vituperative abuse against his countrymen, and who would gladly see them and him sent out of the Province. He will ere long discover that he is a cypher among them, except for their purposes, as he has not, and never will have influence, to carry any point of utility, if he wished it.

The demagogues oppose all improvement, unless where self interested. The Lachine Turnpike has intentionally been allowed to drop, and other Turnpikes have been opposed.—They have starved the Montreal General Hospital, by a pitiful aid of two hundred and fifty pounds, because of its being an English institution of great public utility, divested of factious influence, and altho' it has been the means of preventing the fatal ravages of infectious diseases in a dense population. They have nevertheless expended thousands upon an Hospital at Quebec, which will not admit patients with infectious diseases, and have given a thousand pounds a year to another hospital there, to do what the other should have either agreed to do, or had no public money.—Is this patriotism, impartiality, or economy of the public purse?—No, it is wasteful extravagance for par-

ty purposes. Their measures keep Capital out of the country, by protecting fraud, in the refusal of Register Offices for incumbrances upon fixed property.

Their conduct alarms people at a distance and tends to prevent the expenditure of British monies on Canals for internal improvement—and works for defence.

Their whole proceedings are built upon falsehood and deception, and brow-beating their opponents.

They make an outcry about the intentions of Government to tax them, when they know it neither has the intention nor the power to raise a penny of tax, without an act of the legislature. No people on earth have the benefits of government and protection, at so little an expence.—Directly they contribute nothing, and the demagogues labour to destroy the blessings they enjoy, for a fanciful something in future, that can never be realised.—A fire brand at a late meeting, said it was the intention to reduce the Canadians to be hewers of wood, and drawers of water.—Shall so gross a falsehood be sanctioned by the people, after nearly seventy years, experience of the lenity of British rule and the enjoyment of a greater degree of happiness than is

enjoyed by any peasantry on earth.—If sanctioned by them, then in tender mercy the constitution should be taken away to prevent such shameful abuse of it.

The *Cligue* like all Radical Impostors, will allow of no opinion but their own.—If the misery that the success of their measures would produce to this country, could be confined to the demagogues themselves, it would be a most happy refutation of their principles, to let the revolutionary effects of them be felt—for a short tuition under Jonathan, would work a complete cure of the community at large.

The Assembly was clamorous for independence of the Judges, to which the King assented upon condition that suitable permanent salaries and retiring allowances should be first provided, instead of complying with this indispensable preliminary, they fought off by new proposals destructive of the King's undoubted prerogative, and thereby proving that independence of the Crown was meant to be converted into absolute dependance upon the Assembly.

The Chief public Revenue, and indeed the whole of it, involved in the difficulties between the Assembly and the other branches of the Legislature, consists of the duties levied under the

Imperial Act of 14, Geo. 3, Cap. 88, and thereby appropriated.—£5000 permanently granted and appropriated by a Provincial Statute, passed during the present Constitution—and the King's Casual and Territorial Revenue, or private property graciously given up towards the civil expenditure of the Province—also the fines and forfeitures.—Now all this Revenue, the Clique modestly claim the privilege of subjecting to their annual caprice, in the teeth of solemn acts of the whole Imperial and Provincial Legislature.—In other words, that the will of the *Clique* shall be the supreme law.

Can any argument be necessary to expose the absurdity and deplorable consequences of such a power. If three persons, having an united interest in property, make an agreement respecting it, upon principles which require the assent of the whole to its disposal ; what would be thought of the junior party, if he claimed the right of sole disposal and controul of this property, regardless of the other parties? Yet this in point of plain matter of fact, would be similar to the pretensions of the Assembly, to the disposal of the already appropriated revenues, when those pretensions are divested of revolutionary colouring.

Another pretension of the Assembly is, that

(contrary to every British precedent) every public officer, should annually depend upon their vote for his salary.—At this rate, it would be in the power of the Assembly annually to create a dissolution of the Government and introduce consequent anarchy, unless the conditions were agreed to, which they might see fit to prescribe, for allowing of its continuance.

Under such a tenure of office, no honest man could serve—all such must retire and their situations become filled by the tools of the *Clique*.

Dependance of office upon the King's Representative has (independent of other considerations), the security of high character against abuse.—Demagogues having no character, their tyranny would be bounded only by their caprice, for the portion of injustice done by them would sit lightly upon the shoulder of each individual.

There is no example of the power claimed by the Assembly, except in the time of the grand rebellion under the Long Parliament, in the time of Charles the First, which, after being tyrannically exercised by themselves, led to the tyranny and usurpation of Cromwell.

Let all loyal subjects and those well disposed to the preservation of the connexion with the Mother Country, as the greatest blessing to this

Province, rally round the Executive Government on this momentous occasion, and give their votes and interest to MOLSON, M'GILL, DELISLE, JAS. GRANT and others entertaining like political principles, and turn their backs upon their opponents.

As a proof of my sincere wish for the prosperity of this Country, I have to add, that all I have upon earth is in it.

AN ANGLO CANADIAN,

OF OLD STANDING.

Montreal, 16th July, 1827.

THE END.